

Legislative Document No. 12.

SIXTH REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OF THE

AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE FOR THE BLIND,

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF KENTUCKY,

AND TO THE

GOVERNORS OF THE STATES OF THE UNION, &c., FOR THE YEAR 1873.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT.

To His Excellency, P. H. LESLIE, Governor of Kentucky, and to the General Assembly of Kentucky:

The American Printing House for the Blind, during the past year, has accomplished all that its most sanguine friends could expect. It has printed more books in the year than ever were printed in the same length of time in any other similar establishment; and these books, in their cheapness, in the beauty and accuracy of their printing, in their legibility, in the taste and durability of their binding, and in their sterling worth, are unrivaled.

The Baxter steam engine, that runs our press, has given entire satisfaction. It uses less than two buckets of coal a day, and has needed no repairs during the year, though running regularly every day. And while ours is the only printing establishment for the blind in the world, where steam power is used to run the press, the results have proved its efficiency and economy.

The books published during the year are as follows:

A book of Arithmetical Examples, contained in one hundred and seventy-five pages, and comprising a cyclopædia of arithmetical facts; Washington Before the Revolution, a book of one hundred and seventy-three pages, giving an account of the youth and early manhood of Washington, written by a native of Kentucky, the foundations of whose education were laid in the Kentucky School for the Blind, and who, though totally blind and deaf, has, in this work, left a monument that will keep his memory ever green in the hearts of the blind of our country. This is the first life of Washington that has ever been printed for the blind, and deserves to be ranked next in value to the Bible by every blind American. Guyot's Physical Geography, a book of one hundred and sixty-four pages. This is from the ablest and most recent work of the distinguished Prof. Arnold Guyot, which was given to the public by Scribner & Armstrong, of New York, last summer. The introductory geographical works of this author had been printed for the blind elsewhere, and the publication of the crowning work of the series is of inestimable service to all blind students in our country. The Life and Adventures of Robinson Crusoe, with a sketch of the life of Daniel Defoe; this is to be comprised in three volumes, each of one hundred and sixty-eight pages. Two of these volumes are already finished, and the third volume will be off

the press by the last of January. The money for printing this work was given by the trustees of the Public Library of Kentucky. For their philanthropy in placing one of the master-pieces of English literature, so full of lessons of self-help and persevering, persistent industry, within the grasp of the blind, they deserve and will receive the cordial thanks of the sightless children who have been enabled, by this act, to experience the delight that always attends the perusal of Robinson Crusoe. In its mechanical execution, this work is a model of beautiful printing.

In Philadelphia we have had printed, under the direction of the former members of the National Association for Printing Musical Works for the Blind (which society coalesced with the American Printing House for the Blind last year), a most invaluable work for all blind persons studying or teaching music. It is Marex's Universal School of Music, in two volumes, of about one hundred and fifty pages each. The work has been arranged and supervised, in its progress, by Prof. David Wood, the eminent blind organist of Philadelphia, who has gratuitously superintended the publication of this book, with the sole desire of helping the blind along in that path of study in which they can best compete with the seeing. The entire work has been stereotyped, and the whole impression, together with the plates, will be forwarded to us immediately upon completion.

The books previously printed are Fables for Children, Gay's Fables, Virgil's *Æneid*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *King Lear*, *Macbeth*.

The books contributed by the National Printing Association are Musical Dictionary, Compend of American Literature, Life and Beauties of Shakspeare, Etymology, Select Hymns.

Through the energy of our agent, Mr. H. L. Hall, several States have been induced to co-operate with Kentucky in bearing the expenses, and sharing the benefits of the Printing House. New Jersey has appointed an advisory board of trustees, and placed in their hands five thousand dollars, the interest of which is to be given annually to us. Delaware has appropriated a sum that yields us an annual income of one hundred dollars. Mississippi and Louisiana, it is to be hoped, will soon resume their connection with us, which was broken by the war. Indiana, Ohio, and Arkansas took favorable action last year, and will, probably, this winter, complete the work so well begun. And Pennsylvania has contributed to our means in books and money, during the year, some eight thousand dollars. Doubtless all the Southern and Western States will, in time, unite with us.

In Ontario an auxiliary board has been formed, consisting of E. S. Wiggins, M. D., Principal of the Ontario Institution for the Blind; Hon. John Macdonald, Toronto, and Rev. John H. Castle, D. D., Toronto.

One hundred and thirty-five volumes have been given away to indigent blind persons in Kentucky during the past year; while the literary and school work of the Kentucky Institution has absorbed one hundred and fifty volumes in addition. Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey have received four hundred and seventy-two volumes. And twenty-one volumes have been sent to Mississippi on account of early contributions, yet unbalanced.

When it is generally understood that every State receives books for gratuitous distribution through its Institution for the Blind, according to its money contributed; and when it is clearly established, as we are always in a condition to show, that our expenditures are on a scale of unparalleled economy, we believe that it will need but a simple statement of what we are doing to make every Southern and Western State join us in this work that lies so near our hearts, of providing a literature for the blind.

We are proud that our State leads the way in printing for the blind; we are gratified at the recognition and appreciation it has won abroad, as shown in the medal of merit awarded its books for the blind that were exhibited in August, at the World's Fair, at Vienna; but our best reward is felt, and our deepest gratitude excited, when we see the joyous animation and intelligence that has been awakened upon the sad faces of the blind, through the judicious benevolence of our State.

We commend it to the fostering care of our Legislature, and the Legislature of every State that has an Institution for the Education of the Blind, as an indispensable aid and necessary adjunct to the successful workings of such Institutions; for without books the education of the blind is worthless, and almost impossible.

Respectfully submitted,

W. F. BULLOCK,

President.

